

# FRS NEWS

FRS News is a free & irregular publication aimed at the listeners of the Free Radio Service Holland, an independent short wave free radio station. It usually comes out prior to or after a broadcast.

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**INTRODUCTION** Welcome along in the Winter 2007 FRS Newsletter edition. Many of you who haven't received the previous re-styled editions will hopefully like the new look! BTW, if you are interested in catching previous editions, please send an e-mail and we'll provide you with the necessary details. Perhaps a good moment for a potted history: this small newsletter was first published under the name FRS Newsletter in January 1993. After 14 editions, the name was changed to FRS News. That was in 1997. The FRS Newsletter was continued for subscribers only and its content changed from covering FRS-Holland to emphasizing on Free Radio News. Where the FRS Newsletter ended, FRS News continued informing the listening audience with news from the Free Radio Service Holland. In the mean time the FRS Newsletter has been discontinued. After 7 years, the final edition # 39/40 was published December 2003. What is left is FRS News which will certainly continue as far as it is an important means of communication between FRS-Holland and you, the listener! Talking of communication or better: improving it...since November 2004, we have been introducing two brandnew columns. Every new edition, we'll publish a collection of the letters/ E-mails we received via our Herken "2702" maildrop or via e-mail. We feel that's a good idea. Give us your opinion. So far response on the "new format" and new columns have been very encouraging. Thanks to all of you who sent in (positive) comments. In addition in each issue we will go back in time with a flashback to a particular month/year including one of our broadcasts, SW news etc. This item is also included in future editions of FRS Magazine presented by Peter Verbruggen. Any ideas which might benefit FRS News are more than welcome, you can contact us via POBox 2702 or of course the easiest & fastest way: via E-mail. Don't hesitate...just do it!!!

## FRS-Holland NEWS

Once again we have to welcome a number of new listeners and in addition of course many faithful FRS friends. Thank to all of you for the (snail)(e) mail we received regarding FRS-Holland's 6220 kHz December 17th 2006 broadcast.

### FRS Activities

Sun December 17th marked the return of FRS-Holland following a (too long) period of inactivity.

The previous full broadcast was the one on Boxing day December 26th 2005. Sun Dec. 10th 09.00- 10.00 UTC a 60 minute broadcast was aired on 6220 promoting the upcoming Dec. 17th broadcast. In addition many people were informed by e-mail. Pxs went to te air between 10.00- 14.00 CET. Reception was fair/ good in wide areas although propagation certainly was not

that what we hoped for. **by Peter V.** After 11.00 CET things got worse and there was a high amount of noise, a very unstable 48 mb. Especially in the UK reception was poor. But that's short wave.... If we would have been on air over the X-Mas pried, things would have been worse: conditions on the 24th, 25th & 26th of Dec. were appalling! December saw the debute show of our new German presenter Jan van Dijk who did a 60 min. show. Certainly a well-produced programme with two new items and a nice choice of alternative music (see separate column). FRS Magazine featured dec. 1979 with news from around the world and Free Radio News. In addition extracts were played from Radio Caroline and Atlanta Radio. FRS Goes DX featured 60 min. of Radio News separated into two 30 min. parts. Last but not least there was a 30 min. documentary entitled the *History of Offshore Jingles*. It is not our intention to sit and have a long

rest. FRS-Holland hopes to be back on air Sunday February 25th. Alternatively one week later March 4th. When you read this, full preparations are underway for the upcoming broadcast. Pxs will include FRS Magazine with a flashback to February 1977 (including (radio) news and music from that particular month), the German Service (see separate column), FRS Goes DX with the latest news from the wonderful world of wireless and part 2 of the History of Offshore Jingles. Of course pxs will include great music from the past 4 decades, interesting (radio-related) items and some of the mail we received for our previous transmission. Pxs will last 3 or 4 hours and we are still discussing whether the broadcast will be done during the moring or afternoon hours. So...watch your e-mail giving a definitive answer on the most important details. Freq will be 6220 (six-two-two-0).

### INFORMATION

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The Netherlands

The next edition will be out  
Spring 2007.

## The GERMAN SERVICE on FRS-HOLLAND

December 2006 saw a new German presenter on FRS-Holland: Jan van Dijk. Perhaps a good opportunity to reveal some information about German presenters on the station.....

Since the start of FRS-Holland, back in 1980, there has always been a German Service on the station. Who was the first German presenter? How many jocks have been on the station and; how long have they been presenting their show? Here are some answers.

When FRSH started in August 1980, a German presenter was part of the programme line-up. His name: Chris. He had a very familiar presentation style and hosted the German Show between Aug. 1980 and Jan. 1982. After a two month silence he presented the Int. Listeners' Letter Show between April '82 and March 1984. George Strong joined March 1982 but left already in July of that year. His successor was Michael who presented the popular German Show between Aug. 82 and Dec. 83. One of the most popular German FRS presenters was Danny Kay who took over from Michael in Dec. 1983. Danny did his final FRS show in Dec. 1989. Already four months later a new deejay took over: Johnny Best better known as 'JB'. In Dec. 1990, a couple of months after the 10th birthday celebrations, Stefan Kramer got involved and for a while he & Johnny took turns until Johnny left in the Spring of 1992. Stefan continued till August 1997. Almost a year FRS continued without a German Service. That changed in the Summer of 1998- June to be precisely- when Mark Jones joined. Mark Jones continued till the end of 2005. December 2006 saw Jan van Dijk's debut show, he's the eighth German presenter in 26+ years! Jan takes over from Mark Jones who will be sadly missed! Mark produced pxs for FRS-Holland between

mid 1998-2005. He was a dedicated, reliable presenter who did an excellent job witness the many German listeners who listened to his *Off Beat* show over the years. A FRS presenter in heart and soul. In some way Mark is still involved and will help us whenever he can. Of course we were not happy when Mark announced his departure. But: he helped us finding a successor and that's great! Of course we respect Mark's decision and we know he's well disposed towards FRS-Holland. Mark: thank you for everything! Jan van Dijk's German Service features two brand-new items: 'Vergessene Piraten' (Forgotten Pirates) and Uplink (covering an interesting radio-related website). Of course Jan will also read some of the mails/ letters which were received for the previous broadcast. Musical wise Jan plays alternative tracks which perhaps aren't the ones often heard on the wireless. He plays recent tracks and some 80s/ 90s. One thing is for sure: he is full of enthusiasm and is not a stranger in short wave free radio land. We wish him all the luck and hope that many of you will be tuning in and writing to Jan's future programmes on the Free Radio Service Holland. He enjoys your company & letters!

**Do you have an E-mail address? Make sure forwarding it! You will be assured of receiving important updates/ the latest news on FRS-Holland.**

## FRS-HOLLAND 25+ YEARS

Send your personal FRS memories to our mailbox. There're a few options:

- A. Tape it on a cassette / MiniDisc or burn it on a CD-R (as an mp3 file) (1) \*;
- B. Send it as an mp3 file to our E-mail address (2) \*;
- C. If none of the afore-mentioned possibilities can be accomplished, then there's a third possibility: Put your memories on a sheet of paper and we will read them out on air (1) ; 1. FRS-Holland, P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG Herlen, the Netherlands. 2. e-mail address is <frs\_holland@hconet.nl>.

\* Listeners should only record a dry message, no backing music please !! Each listener participating, will receive a surprise. Simply congratulate FRSH with its Birthday is of course also an option !! Apart from your memories, we are looking for catchy one-liners. What does FRS-Holland mean to you? Let us hear your very own thought(s) and do it in only one sentence !! Same options as mentioned above.

**A recorded message is the most personal way to participate!**

## FRS-Holland

### Jingle CD

Early 2000 we introduced the FRS Jingle CD. Ever since numerous CDs were sent to people all over Europe. We received very positive and enthusiastic response.. The FRS Jingle CD covers digitalized stuff covering almost 20 years of FRS jingling divided into eight sections. It starts with the early 80s and ends with the millennium set produced in 1999. 226 jingles for only € 13.50 / £ 9.00/ USD 15.00. You can send the money cash to our maildrop: P.O.Box 2702, 6049 ZG in Herlen, the Netherlands. A great asset to your jingle collection....the FRS-Holland Jingle CD. In case you are interested: we do offer a special Jingle CD info-sheet. Or: order the info via Email. Quick and easy.

## DID YOU KNOW...

... that we will be introducing a brandnew QSL series as from February 2007 onwards !! The new series will be entitled "???" featuring pictures of ??? consisting of four different and numbered QSLs. Just wait and see...important: Our future QSL policy will be more strict: any reception report must cover at least a 30 min. period with a clear description of what you heard (a number of programme details). E-mail reports will be verified with a E-QSL (attachment).

**Sunday February 25th in the afternoon on 6220: FRS-Holland !!**

## MAILBOX 2702 MAILBOX 2702

## By Peter Verbruggen

First of all thanks to all listeners taking the trouble to drop us a line following our December 17th 2006 broadcast. Time for some excerpts from the mail we received...

The first letter is coming from the southern part of Germany  
"Congratulations to your great programm. I'm just listening to you on 6220 kHz. Reception is very good (SINFO 44434). Today fading's a bit stronger than usually on this freq. Your programs and presenters are great as always, it is really professional." Thanks for your mail Josef Köppin, Viechtach/ Germany.

We cross the border and focus on a Swiss listener, Ronald Bieri from Deepflingen. "Habe Ihre Sendungen mit Vergnügen verfolgt und genießt und es hat mir sehr viel Spaß gemacht. Ihr seid ein gutes Radio, grosse Klasse, Super Musik und sehr gut moderiert. Ich finde es toll dass es noch Leute gibt wie Ihr, die noch auf Kurzwelle Radio machen, einfach Super. Der Empfang der gehörtene Sendungen war mit grossem Rauschen begleitet. Ich wünsche Ihnen weiterhin viel Erfolg und grossem Spaß am Radio machen."

A good 'old' Scottish friend is Ian Biggar. We are glad to hear from him after many years.... "I was very pleased to hear you on the air today on 6220 kHz from just before 0900 UTC. Unfortunately reception was not that good, but still audible. I assume that this was coming from Mystery Radio and to be honest, their signal does not reach me that well during the day, but is much better at night. I recorded the first 25 minutes of the programme which I will send to you on cassette and hopefully you will send me a QSL card. I don't listen much to shortwave these days as I simply do not have the time. That coupled with the fact that conditions are not good at the moment. Also I am afraid to say that the stations these days do

nothing to make me interested. Anyway I hope that you are well. Good to hear the programmes which were as professional as ever. I am afraid there are too few stations who put real effort into their

programmed these days.

Thomas Roessner lives in

Göttingen, Germany, about 100 km south of Hannover and uses a Kenwood TS\_50 into an outdoor vertical antenna "DX\_88". He writes: "Hi, just read in the SW Pirate list about your transmission, sadly I read a bit too late, so I could only tune in at 12.30 UTC. But even late, better as not. And BTW I want to send a short SWL reception report, as I hope to get my first FRS Holland QSL.) If possible... hi!"

Michael Geisel lives in Pfullingen (southern part of Germany).

"Hello Peter, just wanna inform you that reception of yesterday's transmission on 6220 was superb here in Pfullingen although in some Internet newsgroups bad conditions were reported. As always it was an excellent balance between music (I like these typical FRSH\_songs like "Someone, somewhere, in summertime" from the Simple Minds...) and information. It's great that FRSH is still alive and kicking! All the best for 2007." Thanks Michael and remember: we will play more of your type of music in February!

A surprise to hear from our old friend & Dutchman Marten Boenstra living in Edmonton/ Canada. Our Dec. 17th broadcast was repeated on XMas Eve on the Internet. "I awoke last night at 02.30 local time and suddenly realized that your Internet broadcast had just started. So I quickly tuned my computer to <bereik.net:8500>, connected a cable and so I could listen to FRS from my warm bed. I heard the name of Manfred Bredow from Hartmannsdorf and that reminded me to the early 80s. BTW, reception was splendid... 55555!"

Thanks a lot Marten, the fact that you get out of your bed in the middle of the night just says enough!

27 year old Marco Bauer lives in Hartheim near Freiburg. "Since 1990 I listen to stations on MW & SW. Since a year also to pirates. I think FRS puts out real professional pix but only so now and then. Your musical choice was excellent." Txx for your comments Marco and remember that we will be more active in 2007.

"How nice it is to switch on your SW receiver and check what is going on in the 48 mb. I was already an active listener to the offshore pirates in the 1980s/ 1970s and listened during evenings to Veronica, Caroline & RNI on my transistor. Since a while I tune in to the so-called landbased pirates. I am 61 years and enjoy listening to the hobby pirates." This latter comes from John Edward Dichter in Strass, Austria.

Last but not least an interesting letter from Felix Schäfer. "I heard you with my Grundig Satellit 500. As always I was excited and happy to listen to FRS on SW. Audio quality happened to be very good. I like Jan van Dijk's show because it was well balanced. FRS Goes DX was interesting, as it always is. The mention of the Top 4000 made me listening to Radio 10 Gold on 1006 AM. I'm looking forward to tune in again to FRSH." Thanks !!

## Cont. From page 4:

The magazine focussed on the Offshore and Dutch landbased pirate scene. In those days the medium wave pirates were immensely popular in Scandinavia and during Sat evenings and Sat nights many stations aired so-called International shows. In the UK many FM and AM stations were active in the famous London scene. Amongst them names such as Radio Jackie, Radio Horizon, Thameside Radio, and Alice's Restaurant.

# FACT FILE

*Flashing back to December 1979*

## Portrait of 1979

Videoclips have become common on TV. Groups such as Kiss, Supertramp & The Village People rule the charts. Diana Ross & Michael Jackson play in the film musical 'The Wiz' en The Shadows make a come back with 'Theme from the Deer Hunter'. Punkmusic is popular and discomusic remains popular with Chic, Eruption en Gloria Gaynor.

## Newsfacts December 1979

The famous Dutch Top 40 foundation produced the Top 1000 over the 1970s. The Veronica Broadcasting Society, successor of Offshore station radio Veronica, airs a selection of the list on national Dutch pop station Hilversum III \*\*\* For already a month, 52 hostages are held in the US embassy in Iran. US president Jimmy Carter threatens with a list of anti-Iran penalties. In this way he hopes the hostages will be released. Part of the disciplinary action against Iran is an economic boycott \*\*\* An earthquake resulting in an enormous tidal wave hits South American Columbia. More than 100 Columbians die. Dutch national radiostation Hilversum I is in December 1979 only to be heard during nighttime on AM 675, the main freq of sister station Hilversum III. Hilversum I makes use of a new tx situated in Flevoland. During December the Nozema, responsible for running all Dutch national txs, is carrying out technical measurements near the site of the new tx \*\*\* December 3rd Eleven fans are killed during a stampede for seats before The Who concert at the Riverfront Coliseum (now known as the U.S. Bank Arena) in Cincinnati, Ohio \*\*\* December 27th the world is shocked by the news that the Soviet Union seizes control of Afghani-stan. The new pro-Russian and pro-Iran leader Karmal replaces overthrown and executed President Amin \*\*\* December 21st a ceasefire for Rhodesia is signed at London \*\*\*

December 24th: the first European Ariane rocket is launched \*\*\* December 26th: in Rhodesia, 96 Patriotic Front guerillas enter the capital Salisbury to monitor a ceasefire that begins December 28th \*\*\* At the end of 1979 a colour video camera is for sale costing nearly 5,500 Dutch guilders \*\*\* A VHS videorecorder costs 3,300 guilders \*\*\* Sony introduces the Walkman radio \*\*\* In the cinemas we are watching 'Apocalypse Now' starring Marlon Brando, 'Escape from Alcatraz' met Clint Eastwood, de filmversion of 'Hair' and 'Cha cha', with Dutch rock hero Herman Brood and German pop singer Nina Hagen.

## Top 5 Netherlands

- 1\_Earth & Fire, Weekend
- 2\_Crazy little thing called love- Queen
- 3\_Freddie James, Get up and Boogie
- 4\_Mac Kissoon & Family, Love and understanding
- 5\_Yes I do- Luv

## Top 5 UK

- 1\_Pink Floyd Another Brick In The Wall
- 2\_The Police Walking On The Moon
- 3\_The Sugarhill Gang Rapper's Delight
- 4\_The Tourists I Only Want To Be With You
- 5\_Abba I Have A Dream

## Top 5 USA (WABC)

- 1\_Babe \_ Styx (A&M)
- 2\_No More Tears (Enough Is Enough) \_ Barbra Streisand/Donna Summer (Columbia) Z
- 3\_Rock With You \_ Michael Jackson (Epic)
- 4\_Escape (The Pina Colada Song) \_ Rupert Holmes (Infinity)
- 5\_Still \_ The Commodores (Motown)

## Radio News December 1979

\* On the wireless we hear the sound of Radio Luxemburg on 208 metres/ 1440 kHz. Pxs are hosted by Mike Verdrengh (Dutch), Rob Jones, Stuart Henry, Steve Wright en Mark Wesley \*\*\* Radio Caroline transmits from the MV Mi Amigo. But late 1979 pxs contain more commercials than records. Caroline returned to the airwaves Easter 1979 and eversince a Dutch and English service are to be heard. Two Dutch deejays leave the station in December: Paul de Wit & Rob Hudson. Other Dutch jocks are Tom van der Velde & ex-Veronica deejay Wil Lulkinga. A shortage of Dutch jocks means that Caroline's Richard Thompson is to be heard in the Dutch 1981 Show. The turn of the year and start of a new decade, is extensively celebrated aboard the Mi Amigo. For the last time but that's something they do not know at that very moment. Less than 3 months later the Mi Amigo loses the battle against the Northsea and sinks.

## Free Radio News December 1979

On the SW bands, many quality stations from different countries are active. To mention a few: ABC Europe, Radio Viking, EMR, Radio Zodiac, ABC England. Two newcomers late 1979 are Mark Stafford's Atlanta Radio and Radio Mercury. One of the most popular stations was European Music Radio with monthly 3rd Sun trms on 6235 and 7325 kHz. In 1979 there was a very popular radiomagazine in the Netherlands called the FRM. To be continued on page 31